

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BISSAU 00111 101125Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MCT-01 SY-05 DHA-02 IO-13 /087 W

-----101805Z 103666 /43

R 091524Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0254

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY DAKAR BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BISSAU 0111

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJ: RAFAEL BARBOSA CONDEMNED

REF: 76 BISSAU 0120

1. IN SECRET CULMINATION BISSAU'S FIRST POST INDEPENDENCE POLITICAL TRIAL WHICH BEGAN AS PUBLIC TRIAL (REFTEL), PAIGC FOUNDER AND EARLY COLLABORATOR OF AMILCAR CABRAL, RAFAEL BARBOSA, WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH BY FIRING SQUAD BY SPECIALLY CONSTITUTED TRIBUNAL. BARBOSA WAS ACCUSED OF TREASONOUS COLLABORATION WITH PORTUGUESE SECRET POLICE DURING EARLY SEVENTIES AND WITH HAVING ASSISTED THE THEN GOVERNOR, ANTONIO SPINOLA, IN HIS ATTEMPT TO WIN OVER SUPPORT OF AFRICAN PUPULATION FOR CONTINUATION OF PORTUGUESE RULE THROUGH SERIES OF REFORMS KNOWN AS QUOTE GUINE MELHOR UNQUOTE CAMPAIGN. MUCH HAS ALSO BEEN SAID ABOUT BARBOSA'S POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN ASSASSINATION OF AMILCAR CABRAL BUT TRIBUNAL'S JUDGEMENT OMITTED FERERENCE TO THESE ALLEGATIONS.

2. TRIAL CAUSED CONSIDERABLE FUROR LAST DECEMBER, NECESSITATING THE CLOSING OF SESSIONS TO PUBLIC AND REMOVAL OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BISSAU 00111 101125Z

PROCEEDINGS TO SAFETY OF BISSAU'S AIR BASE. BARBOSA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR RECRUITING MANY OF PARTY'S EARLY AFRICAN CADRES MANY OF WHOM REMAIN SYMPATHETIC TO HIM. UNEASY CROWDS WHICH FOLLOWED TRANSFER OF TRIAL TO AIR BASE OUTSIDE TOWN RESULTED IN POSTPONEMENT OF TRIAL SO AS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH PAIGC EFFORTS IN DECEMBER ELECTIONS. ANNOUNCEMENT OF VERDICT AND DEATH SENTENCE IN BISSAU ON FRIDAY WAS

ACCOMPANIED BY ARMED FORCES ALERT. NO INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

3. BARBOSA'S LAWYERS HAVE APPEALED DEATH SENTENCE TO COUNCIL OF STATE WHICH HAS POWER TO REDUCE SENTENCE TO AS LITTLE AS TEN YEARS.

4. COMMENT: HAVING MADE THEIR POINT IN CONDEMNING BARBOSA TO DEATH, PAIGC NOW LIKELY TO FAVOR SOME FORM OF COMMUTING SENTENCE TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE FRICTION BETWEEN PAIGC'S AFRICAN CADRES (WHO FEEL SYMPATHY FOR FIRST NON-CAPE VERDEAN LEADER OF PAIGC) AND PAIGC'S LEADERSHIP WHICH REMAINS HEAVILY CAPE VERDEAN.  
CURRAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, TREASON, TRIALS, COURT DECISIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BISSAU00111  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770148-1210, D770082-0344  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BISSAU  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770380/aaaacrt.a.tel  
**Line Count:** 76  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4f775ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BISSAU 120  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3169590  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RAFAEL BARBOSA CONDEMNED  
**TAGS:** PINT, PU, CV, PAIGC, (BARBOSA, RAFAEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4f775ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009